

In the Claims:

1. (Original) A welding method for arranging a flange part of an attaching member onto a mother member and welding the flange part to the mother member, in which

the welding corresponds to laser welding, and a laser beam is directed to the flange part along a welding path extending from a welding start point to a welding termination point to perform welding, the welding path being turned back before reaching the welding termination point, without overlap between the welding start point and the welding termination point, and the welding termination point being located at a place where no stress concentration occurs due to external forces on the mother member and the attaching member.

2. (Original) The laser welding method according to claim 1, wherein the welding path is substantially C-shaped, and after the welding path is turned back, a longer welding path than a crater produced in the welding termination point is provided to complete the welding termination point.

3. (Original) The laser welding method according claim 1, wherein the welding path is spiral-shaped, having at least one round which extends from an outer welding start point to an inner welding termination point, and after the welding path makes the one round, a longer welding path than a crater produced in the welding termination point may be further provided to complete the welding termination point.

4. (Previously Presented) The laser welding method according to claim 1, wherein the mother member is a pipe, and the flange part is formed into a circular arc, adapted to a shape of an outer periphery of the pipe.

5. (Previously Presented) The laser welding method according to claim 1, wherein the mother member and the attaching member may be for use in reinforcement of an instrument panel of a motor vehicle.

6. (Previously Presented) The laser welding method according to claim 1, wherein the laser welding corresponds to remote laser welding in which a long-focus laser beam is reflected in a mirror and guided along the welding path.

7. (Previously Presented) The laser welding method according to claim 2, wherein the mother member is a pipe, and the flange part is formed into a circular arc, adapted to a shape of an outer periphery of the pipe.

8. (Previously Presented) The laser welding method according to claim 3, wherein the mother member is a pipe, and the flange part is formed into a circular arc, adapted to a shape of an outer periphery of the pipe.

9. (Previously Presented) The laser welding method according to claim 2, wherein the mother member and the attaching member may be for use in reinforcement of an instrument panel of a motor vehicle.

10. (Previously Presented) The laser welding method according to claim 3, wherein the mother member and the attaching member may be for use in reinforcement of an instrument panel of a motor vehicle.

11. (Previously Presented) The laser welding method according to claim 4, wherein the mother member and the attaching member may be for use in reinforcement of an instrument panel of a motor vehicle.

12. (Previously Presented) The laser welding method according to claim 2, wherein the laser welding corresponds to remote laser welding in which a long-focus laser beam is reflected in a mirror and guided along the welding path.

13. (Previously Presented) The laser welding method according to claim 3, wherein the laser welding corresponds to remote laser welding in which a long-focus laser beam is reflected in a mirror and guided along the welding path.

14. (Previously Presented) The laser welding method according to claim 4, wherein the laser welding corresponds to remote laser welding in which a long-focus laser beam is reflected in a mirror and guided along the welding path.

15. (Previously Presented) The laser welding method according to claim 5, wherein the laser welding corresponds to remote laser welding in which a long-focus laser beam is reflected in a mirror and guided along the welding path.

16. (Previously Presented) A welding method for welding a flange part of an attaching member onto a mother member:

    positioning the flange part of the attaching member onto the mother member;

    directing a laser beam onto the flange part to perform welding; and

    following a welding path extending from a welding start point to a welding termination point to perform laser beam welding wherein the welding path being turned back before reaching the welding termination point, without overlap between the welding

start point and the welding termination point, and the welding termination point being located at a place where stress concentration due to external forces on the mother member and the attaching member are minimized.

17. (Previously Presented) The welding method according to claim 16, wherein the mother member is a pipe, and the flange part is formed into a circular arc, adapted to a shape of an outer periphery of the pipe.

18. (Previously Presented) The welding method according to claim 16, wherein the mother member and the attaching member may be for use in reinforcement of an instrument panel of a motor vehicle.

19. (Previously Presented) The welding method according to claim 16, wherein the laser welding corresponds to remote laser welding in which a long-focus laser beam is reflected in a mirror and guided along the welding path.

20. (New) A welding method for arranging a flange part of an attaching member onto a mother member and welding the flange part

to the mother member, in which

the welding corresponds to laser welding, and a laser beam is directed to the flange part along a welding path extending from a welding start point to a welding termination point to perform welding, the welding path being turned back before reaching the welding termination point and the welding path does not intersect any other portion of the welding path between the welding start point and the welding termination point.